Fellowship
PEACE INFORMATION EDITION
MAR. 15, 1960
VOL. 26, NO.6

Important news to read and act on — See also box on page 3

F.O.R. SECRETARY EXPELLED BY SEMINARY FOR RACE ACTIVITIES

The Rev. James M. Lawson Jr., young Negro Methodist minister and outhern secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, has been expelled from he Vanderbilt University School of Religion for his participation in a nonviolent ampaign against race discrimination in Nashville lunch counters. Lawson, who as completing his senior year, was formerly vice-president of the National Conerence of Methodist Youth, a post to which he was elected while serving a rison term as a conscientious objector.

Lawson has been a leader in many eminars and workshops on nonvioence, and with Glenn Smiley has rought the Fellowship's insights and echniques into numerous tension spots n the South during the past few years. n Nashville he played a leading role n the lunch-counter demonstrations hat by March 3 had resulted in the arst of 144 Negro college students and he closing of the lunch counters in everal stores.

He was the subject of an interview ith Harrison Salisbury, top *New York imes* reporter, published in the *Times* n March 2. The following day the Vanerbilt Board of Trustees offered him he choice of resigning or being exelled. When he refused to resign, hancellor Harvie Branscomb anounced his expulsion. Branscomb said hat the issue was "whether the uniersity could be identified with a conuing campaign of mass disobedience f law as a means of protest."

There were reports that the majority f both faculty and students at the preominantly white Divinity School were acking Lawson, and that protests gainst the University's action aleady were coming in from leading lergymen and others. The Vanderbilt chool of Religion is a Methodist semiary.

Demonstrations Spread

The pattern of nonviolent demontrations against racial barriers at lunch counters meanwhile has spread across much of the South, with Negro college students the principal participants. Targets of the demonstrations for the most part have been variety stores and "5 and 10's" of national chains. Negroes point out that their patronage at other counters in the stores is welcomed, and that they

(Continued on next page)

Expulsion--then Arrest!

One day after Jim Lawson's expulsion from Vanderbilt School of Religion, Nashville police invaded an interracial meeting in that city's First Baptist Church with a warrant for his arrest on charges of inciting to riot. He was released from jail the following day at the request of Divinity School authorities, but will still be tried on the charges.

On the same day white students of both the Divinity School and the University picketed Vanderbilt's Administration Office in protest against the Lawson expulsion. Eleven Divinity School faculty members joined students in signing a protest petition also, but there was no early indication that the expulsion order would be rescinded.

White Vanderbilt students were also reported ready to join the demonstrating Negro youths in their lunch-counter sit-ins.

Fellowship
PEACE INFORMATION EDITION
Box 271, Nyack, New York
ALFRED HASSLER, Editor
WILLIAM ROBERT MILLER, Managing Editor

FELLOWSHIP is published twice monthly by the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Re-entered as second-class matter January 1, 1958 at the Post Office at Nyack, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879; additional entry at Lebanon, Pa.

Secretary Expelled *(cont'd)*

should be entitled to service also at the lunch counters. In most demonstrations the students quietly occupy seats at the counter and remain there, waiting for service, until the store closes. Where the students have shown determination, store managers usually have responded by closing the counter.

The demonstrations have also evoked some disquieting signs of anti-Negro violence. In Montgomery, Alabama, where 1,000 Negro students demonstrated in front of the state capital, robed Ku Klux Klansmen later paraded through the streets carrying baseball bats, and reportedly beat up three Negroes, one a woman.

The new evidences of racism in the United States are reported by the *New York Times* to be getting broad coverage in newspapers abroad, including ones that ordinarily are friendly to the United States. Typical of their attitudes was a cartoon on the front page of *Arbeiter Zeitung*, Austrian Socialist daily. It depicted a gorilla-like Southern white refusing service to a Negro girl and was captioned, "That is a free country."

British FOR Votes Boycott of South African Goods

A statement advising its members to join in a boycott of South African goods as a protest against the policy of *apartheid* in that country was issued by the General Committee of the British Fellowship of Reconciliation in January. Urging such action "as a sym bol of identification with our brethre in South Africa," the Committee realize its possible increase of "deprivatio and humiliation" upon the land and it people.

The Committee also asked its mem bers to "consider some self-denial and in that proportion support the fun for the benefit of those now on tria for treason in South Africa.

New CBR Protest Planned

A new protest against chemical an biological warfare is being planned b the Committee for Nonviolent Action The protest will be directed against th Edgewood Arsenal, in Maryland, an probably will include some aspects o civil disobedience, according to CNVA Participants are being sought.

Time to Protest

The expulsion of FOR secretary Jim Lawson from a Christian seminary for giving leadership to a nonviolent demonstration against the grossly un-Christian practice of race segregation is a shocking betrayal of the standards of both a school of religion and a great university. It is good to know that some students and faculty members at Vanderbilt have publicly repudiated that betrayal. We hope that many FELLOWSHIP readers, and particularly many clergymen, will write their own protests to the officers and trustees of Vanderbilt University.

Many readers will also wish to make their feelings known to the national offices of the chain-stores whose lunch counters are closing rather than serve Negroes. Addresses of some of these are: F. W. Woolworth Co., 233 Broadway; W. T. Grant Co., 1441 Broadway; S. H. Kress Co., 114 Fifth Avenue; and McCrory-McLellan Stores Corp., 1197 Broadway; all in New York City.

THE NEW CRISIS IN THE SOUTH--A CALL FOR HELP

The events in Nashville, like the rapid spread of demonstrations by young Negroes at lunch counters in other parts of the South, show the growing impatience of Negroes with the pace of the South's creeping progress toward full citizenship for all people. It is important that these demonstrators be helped to express their impatience, helped also to keep that expression within the best spirit and techniques of nonviolence and reconciliation.

The Fellowship of Reconciliation has a part to play in this. Calls for help have come to it from several beleaguered cities. Two staff members already have left for the South, and other FOR members have joined with them to provide faculty and program for an important workshop in nonviolence in North Carolina this month.

But more than this is needed, and fortunately the Fellowship is in a position to supply more. Last year more than a score of volunteer "internes in nonviolence" were trained at the FOR's national headquarters for just such a time as this. As this is written, they are being mobilized and sent into tension spots to put themselves at the disposal of the demonstrating groups.

These men and women will go into the South as volunteers, but they will need expense money, perhaps several hundred dollars each. There is no money in the budget for this purpose, but obviously they must be sent.

The FOR has only just sent its members and friends an appeal for a special $10,000 Peace Volunteers Fund, and that too is needed to finance the increasing number of men and women who want to work for peace for expenses or bare subsistence.

The end of the FOR's fiscal year comes April 30, and help is needed from those who have not contributed yet this year so that the regular expenses of the organization may be met.

How can we ask for more?
How can we not?

as Good Word for *Fellowship*

An unsolicited (but welcome) testionial to FELLOWSHIP appeared in he February 19 issue of the British eekly *Peace News*. Taking off from comment on the special (January 1) sue on germ warfare, PN's writer Phyz" described FELLOWSHIP as setting a high standard in pacifist urnalism."

"Among Christian publications its ense of the political significance of vents must be unique," it continued. It has a further striking quality: it never descends to that most stultifying tradition of the English non-confirmist conscience--saying a dogmatic 'no' to sin without any reference to the political, social or psychological context in which it operates."

Illustrating this "splendidly," said "Phyz," was the editorial entitled "Strategy" on the principled use of nonviolence. "Strategy" appeared in the November 1, 1959, issue.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please allow 4 weeks—supply both old and new address.

NEWS from the peace front

A letter severely condemning the atomic bomb test in the Sahara was sent to President Charles de Gaulle last month by the Brandeis University Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy in Waltham, Mass. The student council and over 400 students and faculty signed the letter deploring French responsibility "for adding to world radiation hazards and for the disablement and deaths which are bound to occur." The letter also censured France's part in menacing "the frail structure on which our hopes for peace are founded."

* * *

Opposition to any plan for sharing nuclear weapons with other countries was expressed last month by Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.). "The question we should be trying to decide," the Senator argued, "is how we can control and reduce these weapons of mass destruction, not how we can best give them away."

* * *

A petition urging New Hampshire authorities to release Dr. Willard Uphaus from prison by "an act of clemency at the earliest possible date" was sent to them by the board of directors of the Connecticut Council of Churches last month. Upholding Uphaus' integrity and his "convictions against becoming an informer," the message was the first of its kind issuing from a state religious body acting on Dr. Uphaus' behalf.

FOR member Uphaus was committ to jail in December of last year as result of his adamant refusal to fu nish the state attorney general wi the names of guests who stayed World Fellowship, a summer resort which he is executive director.

* * *

Over 100 students attended a mee ing of the newly organized Committe for a Sane Nuclear Policy at Harvar University in Cambridge, Mass., las month.

The Committee now includes 11 fac ulty members and 16 students from Ha vard and Radcliffe.

Happy Birthday to Us!

The BIG event is the celebration of the 75th birthdays of A.J. Muste and John Nevin Sayre on Thursday evening, April 21.

with

Philadelphia's famous
SINGING CITY CHOIR

Speakers

JOHN NEVIN SAYRE
NORMAN THOMAS -- A.J. MUSTE

Send in your reservation now — $5 per plate -- to

FOR, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

FELLOWSHIP
Box 271, Nyack, New York

SECOND CLASS
Postage Paid
at
Lebanon, Pa.

MEMBER ACP ASSOCIATED CHURCH PRESS